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Judge says Rewald can see CIA files

Honolulu, Hawaii —AP— Former investment counselor Ronald Rewald is entitled to see Central Intelligence Agency records that can be used in his defense against charges that he defrauded investors of millions of dollars, a federal judge has ruled.

Government attorneys said the records would prove that Rewald's ties to the agency were minor and had nothing to do with the charges against him.

Rewald, formerly of Milwaukee, contends that his former investment firm, Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong, was set up at the behest of the CIA. The firm collapsed in September 1983. Millions of dollars of money from investors, about 20 of them from Wisconsin, has yet to be recovered.

Rewald says most of his activities were carried out at the CIA's direction because his firm was a front for various intelligence-gathering projects.

[Last month, a close associate of Rewald told The Milwaukee Journal that the CIA gave Rewald hot investment tips obtained from intelligence sources, and that Rewald acted on those tips to make short-term international investments.]



Ronald Rewald

In his ruling, Federal Judge Harold Fong ordered the government to respond by March 29 to 1,717 questions posed by Rewald. Other legal motions in the case are expected to push back Rewald's trial on 100 counts of perjury, tax evasion and fraud to late summer. Defense attorneys say they will attempt to move the trial from Hawaii because of pretrial publicity here.

Rewald's attorney, federal public defender Michael Levine, called the ruling a breakthrough. Rewald is now in California recovering from surgery for a back problem.